

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

February 25, 2011

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Request for Approval to Enter into a New FY12 Project Agreement for \$678,000 (\$543,750 Federal, \$134,250 Commercial Fisheries Special Fund) between the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) for the Division of Aquatic Resources' Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey Project

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to enter into a new Project Agreement between the BLNR and RCUH. The Project Agreement titled "Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey" will run from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The Contract provides \$543,750 in Federal funds and \$134,205 in LNR 153 Commercial Fisheries Special Funds. Federal funding is being provided by both the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$285,000) and the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$258,750). State Special Funds are being used to provide the required State match component for both grants. The contract will allow the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to utilize RCUH's services in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for DAR to meet project goals and objectives in a timely manner.

The project includes fisheries research activities that support DAR's mission in the management of Hawai'i's fishery resources. Although the project includes components relevant to all of DAR's programs, the primary purpose of the project is to conduct surveys and to compile recreational fishing catch and effort data. Unlike commercial fisheries where commercial catch data is provided directly to DAR through the mandatory submission of monthly catch reports by all licensed commercial fishermen, recreational fishing data is largely unaccountable. The impact of recreational fishing activities on Hawai'i's fishery resources is estimated to be substantial due to the popularity and cultural significance fishing provides for the people of Hawai'i. By conducting routine interviews with both shoreline and private boat fishermen statewide, the project provides both State and Federal agencies with baseline data that is vital to responsibly managing Hawai'i's fishery resources. By integrating catch data (eg. species caught, length, weight and catch disposition) and effort data (eg. hours fished, areas fished, target species, gear types and fisher demographics) with U.S. Census data, estimates of fishing pressure and total landings of Hawai'i's various marine recreational fisheries are calculated and publicly posted via NOAA's website. The project is also currently collaborating with personnel from NOAA Fisheries' Office of Science and Technology to further optimize data collection and processing as well as increase the accuracy of the catch and effort estimates of Hawai'i's recreational fishery. Ultimately, by continuing the project, the State of Hawai'i will be fulfilling

Federal requirements as outlined in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in regard to the mandatory provision of standardized recreational catch and effort data to NOAA by all U.S. coastal states.

Approval to enter into the Project Agreement is being requested concurrently from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance, for review and approval. Also, the Project Agreement is currently being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. Due to the uncertainty of the State's fiscal situation, DAR is aware that implementation of the Project Agreement is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals as well as the availability of funds and that funding restrictions may occur at any time.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorizes the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, enter into a Project Agreement with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i for the Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey project for FY12."

Respectfully submitted,



FRANCIS G. OISHI
Program Manager

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Interim Chairperson